



A VIEW FROM FEW

AN ORGANIZATION FOR OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY
FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

SPACE COAST CHAPTER, KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FL

SEPTEMBER, 2004

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Dawn Partlow*

WOW! Hurricane season is definitely here with the outlook of more to come. I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well and safe. Our monthly Program and Business Meeting is still scheduled for Wednesday 9/15 at the Discovery Cove Restaurant at 5:00 pm. Please come join us, we will be hearing from Susan McGrath from United Way to help us plan for the National Make A Difference Day in October.

Last month we came up with many good ideas. Please come join us and help us continue to make this next year's programs prove to meet your interests. Take an active role in our monthly meetings and our activities that are beginning to pop up on our calendar. We try to plan on activities that are rewarding and beneficial to all.

If you are not a member of FEW, please consider joining. If you have been a member, please reconsider joining again. Let's grow our chapter, let's provide a voice for both men and women in the work force. FEW is the only organization solely dedicated to the removal of sex discrimination and to the promotion of equality in the Federal Government.



FRANCOIS EARNS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Submitted by Barb Powell

Steve Francois, director of the Launch Services Program, is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the Space Coast Chapter of Federally Employed Women. In the letter of nomination, Francois was commended for his outstanding example of leadership excellence, characterized by his display of integrity in his business and personal dealings. Among the 195 employees in this engineering directorate, more than 29 percent are female engineers. These include positions such as office chief of the Mission Management Office and the Program Integration Office, as well as the chief technologist. Many of these women were in secretarial fields and advanced to their current positions with the support of Francois. With the hiring of new employees this year, six of them have been female engineers and five women joined with the recent reorganization. During the 2003 fiscal year, 72 females received On-The-Spot awards and 45 earned performance awards.



SUNSHINE

Vivian Andreasson

Celebrating birthdays in September:

Michelle Lehr	September 01
Vickie Hall	September 02
Pat Lowry	September 02
Peggy Parrish	September 05
Joan Fosdick	September 22
Sharon White	September 25
Cindy Gooden	September 26
Becky Denis	September 29



If you notice anyone missing please email Muzette Fiander at Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov



ANNUAL TRAINING PROGRAM

Vickie Hall

Planning is underway for our annual training program, to be held March 2nd and 3rd, 2005. I want to thank the following individuals for volunteering to support this event: Recorder – Jane Eitel; Finance Chair – Clara Anderson; Membership – Ellie Miller; Registration – Jean Grenville and Karin Biega; Exhibits – TJ Piastuch and Betty Valentine; Hospitality – Becky Fasulo; Graphics – Cindy Gooden; Publicity – Gina O’Shaughnessy; Hostesses – Arden Belt and the 50/50 Raffle – Aneta Ott. We would like to have at least two people per Committee and right now we need volunteers in addition to the above for the Programs/Training and Logistics Committees. So if you are interested in serving on a great team or have any questions regarding any of the committees, please contact Barbara Powell, 867-7384, Barbara.Y.Powell@nasa.gov, Sandy Eliason, 861-9309, Sandra.K.Eliason@nasa.gov, or me 867-9100, Vickie.C.Hall@nasa.gov. We look forward to working with all of you.

I am serving as the Chairperson for the 2005 Annual Training Program and two very wonderful FEW members, Sisters, and dear Friends have volunteered to serve as Co-Chairs: Barbara Powell and Sandy Eliason. And here’s your opportunity to get involved. We need to establish our training program team which consists of a Recorder, Finance Chairperson, and Chairpersons or team members for the following teams: Registration, Programs, Logistics, Exhibits, Hospitality, Graphics, Publicity, Hostesses and the 50/50 drawing. I’ll be happy to send you an overview of the responsibilities for each of these teams. So please, if your are interested in serving on a great team, contact either me at 867-9100, Vickie.C.Hall@nasa.gov or Barb Powell, 867-7384, Barbara.Y.Powell@nasa.gov or Sandy Eliason, 861-9309, Sandra.K.Eliason@nasa.gov

And don’t forget, we are having a contest to come up with this year’s training theme. Send your suggestions to me, Barb or Sandy no later than **September 30, 2004**. The training team will then select a theme and the winner of the contest will receive a one-year Membership in

FEW for the 2005-06 year or for lifetime members a \$30 check to spend at the exhibits or whatever you choose. Thanks Nancy Clark, Ann Gary and Becky Fasulo for your submissions.



COASTAL CLEANUP

Submitted by Aneta Ott

Due to Hurricane Frances the Coastal Cleanup has been changed to October 23rd. Some of the beach is a real mess so it has been delayed until then. This year I am sure we will need many people to help with this effort so I am again sending you the sign up sheet with everyone's name and time that you volunteered to help. Please let me know if you will still be able to help with this new date. Here is the information again. Conservancy Coastal Cleanup to be held October 23, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at Alan Shepard Park, Cocoa Beach (located at the end of SR 520). If you have not yet signed up and would like to do so, please get in touch with me at 867-8549 or send me an e-mail. This is not a strenuous job, so just about anyone can do it. We hand out supplies to the volunteer's that actually do clean up the beach! If you would like to participate in cleaning up the beach we would like to invite you to join us also. This is will be a doubly important job this year with all the damage that has been done and it is community event, so if you volunteer, besides the good feelings that you will have about helping "to keep Brevard Beautiful" there is a T-Shirt in it for your reward for doing so.



FLORIDA HISTORY AND CULTURE

Submitted by Vickie Hall



Florida is home to a rich variety of cultural resources. They include 12,000 year old Native American sites, the remains of early European settlements, and more recently, Mediterranean Revival homes and Art Deco buildings. Although many significant cultural resources are in public ownership, private landholders own significantly

more, and thus, are able to preserve these tangible remains of Florida's past for the future. The tradition of stewardship for private property is well developed in our society, especially among owners of large tracts. Landowners have little difficulty extending their customary care of natural resources to cultural resources, once they understand where the resources are and how they can be protected. The goal of this website is to provide private landowners with information about how they can protect cultural resources in their ownership.

What are "Cultural Resources"?

"Cultural Resources" are those resources that represent a culture or society, either past or present, and may include landscapes, structures, and/or archaeological sites. Typically, cultural resources that are protected are those from past cultures, such as colonial European and Native American, because these cultures are irreplaceable.

Why Protect Cultural Resources in my Ownership?

Protecting cultural resources in your ownership has several advantages. To begin with, tax benefits are possible through certain methods of resource protection. Secondly, cultural resource protection on private lands may better your community's educational and recreational benefits, and finally, preservation and protection of the past provides a legacy for future generations.

Best Management Practices

Taking care of archaeological sites on private lands is much like caring for other resources. The basic principles and techniques have been organized into a series of best management practices. You can download the [Florida Best Management Practices Handbook](#) (2.7MB) ([download Adobe Acrobat](#)), or [order a printed version](#) online from Archaeological Resource Management.

Taken from the following website:
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/flafacts/shorthis.html#florida>



GOVERNMENT NEWS & LEGISLATION

Marie Argana

Government Pension Offset/Windfall Elimination Provision (GPO/WEP)

FEW presented written testimony to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the "Penalty for Public Service: Do the Social Security Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Unfairly Discriminate Against Employees and Retirees." To quote from the testimony: "FEW supports the repeal of both of these unfair provisions. Both the GPO and WEP lower the retirement income of federal employees by altering the Social Security benefit formula for certain groups. What is particularly egregious is that spousal and retirement benefits are reduced for Americans simply because they worked for the federal government. The end result is to dissuade more potential federal workers from joining the civilian workforce.

Additionally, both affect women much more harshly than men despite the fact that older women are one of the fastest growing poverty populations in our nation today. Plus, women are more likely to spend time out of the workforce (about 12 years) to tend to family care giving responsibilities. That is time she is not earning a pension, vesting in a pension or contributing to Social Security. This absence from the paid workforce translates into inadequate retirement income and an increased financial dependency on their spouses.

In general, women who have worked in the federal government during their career still tend to retire from government at lower grades, and the current provisions of the GPO and WEP disproportionately affect them.

The long-term cost of eliminating both of these very unfair provisions is negligible, according to Social Security's actuaries. Yet the reduction in retirement income for those who are now affected by either GPO or WEP is anything but negligible."

Grassroots efforts pay off! Quoting further from the testimony: "FEW, on August 1, asked its members and other interested parties to send letters to their Senators urging them to co-sponsor S 349. In less than two months, over 1100 letters were sent to 71 Senators representing 36 states. Obviously this is a very

important issue to thousands of Americans who are adversely impacted by these unfair provisions or simply believe that they need to be repealed. During these times of an aging workforce, we need to do what is right for federal retirees. Americans who choose to serve their country by working for the federal government should not then be penalized during their retirement years. These provisions need to be repealed as soon as possible."

Be sure to check the CapWiz web site, using your home computer, for grassroots action alerts! There are two ways to access the web site. Simply go to the Legislative section of the FEW website (www.FEW.org) and click on the Capwiz link. Or log onto www.capwiz.com/few directly.

Pay Raise

The House of Representative included a 4.1% raise for federal employees in the \$89.3 billion Transportation/Treasury Appropriations bill. By a vote of 381-39, the House in effect rejected a two-tiered plan by President Bush that would give an increase of 4/1% to the military but 2% to civilian employees. Lawmakers argued that Congress should uphold the tradition of "pay parity" and grant equivalent increases in base pay to the military and the civil service.

FEW issued a press release congratulating the House for passing this important provision, and urging the Senate to follow suit. The Senate appeared to be on a similar track over federal employee pay. The Senate Appropriations Committee last week approved a 4.1% increase for the 1.8 million federal civilian workforce. No date has been set for a full Senate vote.

Health Insurance Rates

Unfortunately this raise could be completely eaten up by the expected 10.6% rise in health insurance premiums next year for federal employees and retirees, the fourth consecutive year of double-digit increases. Government workers with self-only coverage will pay an average of \$5.01 more per pay period, or \$130.26 annually. Workers with family coverage will pay an average of \$11.95 more per day period, or \$310.70 annually.

OPM staffers attributed next year's rate increases chiefly to rising prescription drug costs

and the expanding use of health care services as the federal workforce ages.

The Administration also announced that, for the first time in 5 years, the government will expand the number of health plan choices under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. The program will offer 205 plans nationwide next year, up from 188 in this year.

The open season runs November 10-December 8.

National Work and Family Month

Senate Resolution 210 is coming up for a vote soon in the Congress that urges President Bush to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the US to observe "National Work and Family Month" in October. It further states that reducing the conflict between work and family life should be a national priority.

If you want more information about the resolution, or want to help move this resolution through the Congress, visit www.mothersandmore.org.

Another Bid to Spur Telecommuting

A member of Congress who has been a major force in pushing for federal employees to telecommute, Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., has added language to the Commerce-State-Judiciary spending bill (HR-2799) requiring agencies covered under that bill to make telecommuting available to all of their eligible employees within six months of enactment. It's the latest in a series of attempts by Wolf, the Office of Personnel Management and the General Services Administration to encourage agencies to let more employees work from home or from telecommuting centers. Despite all the urging, though, only about 5 percent of federal employees telecommute even part-time.

Numerous studies have blamed managers' reluctance to lose control over their workers as a prime reason the government allows so little telecommuting, although a recent General Accounting Office report (GAO-03-679) said inconsistent messages from OPM and GSA also contribute.



YOU'RE VOTING, OR NOT, WHY? FAHRENHEIT 1917

Voting: A Reminder Not to be Forgotten

A short history lesson on the privilege of voting...

The women were innocent and defenseless. And by the end of the night, they were barely alive. Forty prison guards wielding clubs and their warden's blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of "obstructing sidewalk traffic."

They beat Lucy Burn, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head and left her hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air. They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed and knocked her out cold. Her cellmate, Alice Cosu, thought Lewis was dead and suffered a heart attack. Additional affidavits describe the guards grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women.

Thus unfolded the "Night of Terror" on Nov. 15, 1917, when the warden at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists imprisoned there because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson's White House for the right to vote.

For weeks, the women's only water came from an open pail. Their food--all of it colorless slop--was infested with worms. When one of the leaders, Alice Paul, embarked on a hunger strike, they tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press.

So, refresh my memory. Some women won't vote this year because--why, exactly? We have carpool duties? We have to get to work? Our vote doesn't matter? It's raining? Last week, I went to a sparsely attended screening of HBO's new movie "Iron Jawed Angels." It is a graphic depiction of the battle these women waged so that I could pull the curtain at the polling booth and have my say. I am ashamed to say I needed the reminder.

All these years later, voter registration is still my passion. But the actual act of voting had become less personal for me, more rote. Frankly, voting often felt more like an obligation than a privilege. Sometimes it was inconvenient.

My friend Wendy, who is my age and studied women's history, saw the HBO movie, too. When she stopped by my desk to talk about it, she looked angry. She was--with herself. "One thought kept coming back to me as I watched that movie," she said. "What would those women think of the way I use--or don't use--my right to vote? All of us take it for granted now, not just younger women, but those of us who did seek to learn." The right to vote, she said, had become valuable to her "all over again."

HBO will run the movie periodically before releasing it on video and DVD. I wish all history, social studies and government teachers would include the movie in their curriculum. I want it shown on Bunko night, too, and anywhere else women gather. I realize this isn't our usual idea of socializing, but we are not voting in the numbers that we should be, and I think a little shock therapy is in order.

It is jarring to watch Woodrow Wilson and his cronies try to persuade a psychiatrist to declare Alice Paul insane so that she could be permanently institutionalized. And it is inspiring to watch the doctor refuse. Alice Paul was strong, he said, and brave. That didn't make her crazy. The doctor admonished the men. "Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity."

We need to get out and vote and use this right that was fought so hard for by these very courageous women... and for our future.

Submitted by Vickie Hall



SAFE DRIVING AID – SIDE MIRRORS ADJUSTMENT

Submitted by Marlene Satterthwaite

Some of the most serious preventable accidents occur because of blind spots while driving! Now

there is a remarkable simple solution discovered by an engineer named George Platter. He presented his method at the prestigious Society of Automotive Engineers.

The National Safety Council tested his theory and discovered, to their amazement, that it works! The method has been fully endorsed by the National Safety Council as described in their September/October issue of Traffic Safety. Here's how it works.

First, forget how we learned to adjust our outside mirrors by plopping behind the steering wheel and turning the mirrors so that we just saw the side of our car looking back at us in the mirrors.

Instead, adjust the driver's side mirror by resting your head against the driver's side window and then turning the mirror so that you just see the side of your car.

Once this is set, move to the center of the vehicle and turn the passenger side mirror so that you can just see the side of your car from the center of the vehicle.

That's it. You won't see your own car in either mirror, yet what you will see is far better. Cars behind you show up as usual in the inside rear-view mirror above the dash, but the instant the car leaves your field of vision from the rear-view mirror the outside mirror picks it up. No blind spot; no delays; no wondering where that car about to pass you has disappeared to, and no waiting a few seconds for the car that you just saw in your rear-view mirror to show up in your outside mirrors.

All three mirrors work in harmony with one another, and the blind spot has been eliminated!



BE AWARE OF NEW CAR-JACKING SCHEME

Submitted by Vickie Hall

Imagine: You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. Then you lock all your doors, start the engine and shift into REVERSE, and you look into the rearview mirror to back out

of your parking space and you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window.

So, you shift into PARK, unlock your doors and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is obstructing your view... When you reach the back of your car, that is when the car-jackers appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off !!

Your engine was running, (*ladies would have their purse in the car*) and they practically mow you down as they speed off in your car.

BE AWARE OF THIS NEW SCHEME THAT IS NOW BEING USED

Just drive away and remove the paper that is stuck to your window later, and be thankful that you read this email. I hope you will forward this to friends and family ...*especially to women!*

A purse contains all *identification*, and you certainly do *NOT* want someone getting your *home address*.

They already HAVE your keys!



NEW PINK AND WHITE M&M'S

Submitted by Jane Eitel

The makers of M&M candies have teamed up with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to raise funds through the sale of their new pink and white M&M candies. For each 8-ounce bag of the special candies sold, the makers of M&M (Masterfoods) will donate 50 cents to the foundation. The next time you want a treat, please pick up a bag (now sold in stores nationwide). You will be donating to a great cause and satisfying your sweet tooth.



The Breast Cancer site is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet their quota of donating at least one free mammogram a day to an underprivileged woman.

It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on "donating a mammogram" for free (pink

window in the middle). This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammogram in exchange for advertising.

Here's the web site! Pass it along to people you know.

www.thebreastcancersite.com



SMILE...IT MAY BE THE BOSS CALLING

Submitted by Clara Anderson



(Aug. 2004) The Week of August 9th is National SMILE WEEK. Yes, I'm serious.

And there's rarely a program I present that someone doesn't ask me if smiling is really that important – either on the phone or in person. People actually ask me: "Nancy, can you really hear a smile?" Yes, Virginia, you can really hear a smile. And your caller can hear the lack of a smile as well.

So this is a column about SMILING and the reasons for it. Now, if you happen to already be a smiler, you might want to pass this article on to someone who isn't, or doesn't know that you CAN HEAR a smile.

First, let's take the word SMILE from Webster's dictionary:

SMILE: To smile, be astonished; to have or take on a facial expression, showing pleasure, amusement, affection, friendliness, irony, etc...and characterized by an upward curving of the corners of the mouth and a sparkling of the eyes

See!! It's something most everyone can easily do.

And if it's that easy...don't you wonder why more people don't do it? Haven't you ever been in a store, or just been walking around, and see that people aren't smiling. Even when you start talking with them?

A recent New York Times review by Roxana Popescu of the book *A Brief History of the Smile* written by Angus Trumble asks a very good question – "Why do English speaking people say CHEESE to make you smile, but Chinese speakers say Eggplant?" And Trumble continues, "The spontaneous smile of the little child is essentially truthful."

"Certainly we all know, not saying 'please' and 'thank you' is usually considered rude," says Friedman, "but the list of rude behavior is much longer than those offenses. I'm not sure why we constantly need to be reminded to smile," she continues, "but we do. You'd think it was common sense to smile when you're with a customer." Ah, but common sense is not that common now, is it?

Will a smile help? "Well," says Friedman, "as my mother used to say, "it couldn't hurt." Friedman also suggests keeping a mirror by your desk. "That" she says "is yet another good reminder to keep a smile on your face when you're talking with customers."

My husband and I are in airports a lot. We've made a conscience decision to keep a slight smile on our face when we walk through them. Why? Because when we look at the faces coming towards us... mouths turned downwards, looking worse than sad – almost mad...we decided we didn't want to look like that. Sure, it may feel a little funny keeping that little smile on our face, but we both know we look better for it.

SMILE week reminded me of a story a skycap told me a few years ago. You'll enjoy it.

Joe, our friendly skycap at the St. Louis airport told me this story. He was walking through the airport a while back and came upon a woman sitting hunched over on her luggage – mouth turned down as far as it could be turned down. She looked – in his words – terrible. He decided to go over and ask her if she was OK. "Excuse me, M'am," he said, "are you OK?" The woman looked up – mouth continuing to be turned down, and grumbled a mean "YES." "Well," he said, "NOTIFY YOUR FACE."

So remember, if someone comes up to you and asks, "are you OK?" it probably means you don't look very happy.

Now say..."Cheese."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 06 Labor Day
- 15 Chapter Program & Business Meeting
Discovery Beach Restaurant, Cocoa Beach
- TBD New Member Luncheon

October

- 23 FEW Florida Coastal Cleanup – Shepard Park, Cocoa Beach – 8:00am - Noon
- TBD Chapter Meeting
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- National Disability Awareness Month
- Make a Difference Day
- Quarterly Report due to National and Regional



COCOA VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

Sep 12 – Sep 28

Here's Love...Miracle on 34th Street

Nov 14 – Dec 5

Brigadoon

Feb 6 – Feb 22

Anything Goes

Apr 23 – May 9



KUDOS!

Many thanks to those who volunteered to help clean/straighten the new FEW Office in the O&C Building, Room 3077. The crew included Dawn Partlow, Sandy Eliason, Vickie Hall, Becky Fasulo, Barb Powell, Karin Biega, Jean Grenville, Jane Eitel, Clara Anderson, Muzette Fiander & Marlene Satterthwaite-----
-Signed.....the management!



SPACE COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
Muzette Fiander

This monthly publication is a means of sharing information and ideas. Please send news articles or items of interest for this Newsletter to Muzette Fiander, TA-E1, or e-mail at Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov
Please feel free to share this Newsletter with your friends. And for anyone interested, a Membership Application is attached as the last page.

- *Peter Abelard*

Intelligence lies within a creative mind, not an extensive memory.

- *Christopher Acedillo*

There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer.

- *Ansel Adams*

Thoughts to Ponder

Submitted by Vickie Hall

The first key to wisdom is constant and frequent questioning, for by doubting we are led to question and by questioning we arrive at the truth.

